



# Sam Brownback

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## News Release

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## COACHES JOIN CALL FOR BAN ON COLLEGE SPORTS GAMBLING

WASHINGTON – As a Congressional leader in the effort to ensure integrity in college athletics, U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback today participated in a Capitol Hill news conference with several other members of Congress and notable college coaches and officials, calling for a ban on college sports gambling.

“This nation's college and university system is one of our greatest assets,” Brownback said. “We offer the world the model for postsecondary education. But sports gambling has become a black eye on too many of our colleges and universities.

“We should not gamble with the integrity of our colleges, or the future of our college athletes. Our young athletes deserve legal protection from the seedy influences of gambling, and fans deserve to know that athletic competitions are honest and fair.

“A ban on collegiate sports gambling will prevent another avenue for those participating in point shaving scandals to spread out their money. If enacted, there will be no ambiguity about whether it is legal or illegal to bet on college sports. We should not wait for another point shaving scandal in order to act,” Brownback said.

The legislation which has been introduced in both the House and the Senate is in direct response to a recommendation made by the National Gambling Impact Study Commission (NGISC), which last year concluded a two-year study on the impact of legalized gambling on our country. The recommendation called for a ban on all legalized gambling on amateur sports and is supported by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), coaches, teachers, athletic directors, commissioners, university presidents, school principals and family groups from across the country. This legislation will prohibit all legalized gambling on high school and college sports, as well as the Summer and Winter Olympic Games.

Attending the News Conference were Tubby Smith, head men's basketball coach, University of Kentucky; Lou Holtz, head football coach, University of South Carolina; Dr. Graham Spanier, President, Pennsylvania State University; and James E. Delany, Commissioner of the Big Ten Conference.

Brownback is original cosponsor of the Amateur Sports Integrity Act (S.2340), introduced by U.S. Sen. John McCain. S. 2340 passed the Senate Commerce Committee in April. Earlier this year Brownback received a letter of support on this issue which was signed by 65 major college coaches.